Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by China

1. The prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation is an effective and necessary step towards the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and has a direct bearing on global and regional peace and stability, as well as on the well-being of all peoples. The root causes of nuclear proliferation are complex, and both the causes and the symptoms of nuclear proliferation should be addressed through an integrated approach. The efforts for nuclear non-proliferation should be strengthened within the framework of global nuclear governance.

2. States should seek universal security and eliminate root causes of nuclear proliferation. They should discard zero-sum thinking and the cold war mindset, establish a security concept that is common, integrated, cooperative and sustainable, and embrace the idea of the community of common destiny for mankind. They should fully respect and accommodate the legitimate security concern of each State and spare no efforts in building up a peaceful and stable international environment.

3. The issue of nuclear proliferation should be addressed peacefully through political and diplomatic means. States should stick to dialogue and negotiation within the framework of existing international laws and refrain from reflexively resorting to sanctions or the use or threat of force and should not use non-proliferation as an excuse for pursuing other aims.

4. All States should abandon double standards and opportunism; uphold the authority of the nuclear non-proliferation regime; ensure comprehensive, faithful and balanced compliance with all obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; avoid setting non-proliferation standards according to the existence or absence of affinities between States; uphold multilateralism and continuously reinforce the fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory nature of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime on the basis of universal participation and democratic decision-making; take seriously the issue of the severe imbalance between supply and demand for nuclear materials in individual countries and adopt effective measures to address it.

5. The status of the Treaty as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime should be consolidated and strengthened, so as to enhance

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the authority and effectiveness of the Treaty and ensure that the relevant provisions of the Treaty are fully abided by.

6. The universality of the Treaty should be enhanced, and countries that have not yet joined the Treaty should do so as non-nuclear-weapon States as soon as possible and place all of their nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in accordance with Treaty provisions.

7. The role of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations and mechanisms should be fully utilized, and Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009) should be earnestly implemented. Earnest efforts should be made to promote the universality of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. All countries should further enhance their nuclear export control mechanisms and support the efforts of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group in this regard.

8. All States should observe the principles of fairness and balance and properly handle the relationship between nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Any measures taken to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should not undermine the legitimate rights of States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy; all proliferation activities carried out under the pretext of peaceful use should be prohibited.

9. One of the root causes of hot-spot nuclear proliferation issues is that the security concerns of relevant countries are not equally respected. The Iranian nuclear issue and the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula have direct bearing on the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and on the peace and stability of relevant regions.

10. In this regard, China welcomes the progress made since the implementation day of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Plan of Action is an international agreement concluded by the E3/EU+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran after long-term tough negotiations and has been endorsed by the Security Council. All parties should strengthen political will, faithfully fulfil their obligations and jointly maintain and implement the Plan of Action.

11. All relevant parties should continue to oppose the development or deployment of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula, earnestly and comprehensively implement relevant Security Council resolutions and the 19 September joint statement. All parties should act in a responsible manner and spend extra effort to alleviate tensions; continue to make joint efforts to pull back the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, get back to the negotiating table at an early date, and achieve the peaceful settlement of this issue, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the enduring peace and sustainability of the region via dialogue. To this end, China has raised the "dual-track approach" and "suspension for suspension" proposal; we hope relevant parties can give consideration to them.